



Families support deployed Soldiers with Sweetheart's Stroll to Iraq, See Page 1C



Robots in the classroom, help children learn, See Page 1B

Learn the legacy of Black History makers, See Page 2A

Chili cook-off turns into Battle of the Brigades, See Page 1B



## Air assaults fast, not easy

Pfc. Monica K. Smith  
3rd CAB Public Affairs

**CAMP STRIKER, Iraq** – Rather than moving Soldiers on the ground through difficult terrain sometimes littered with improvised explosive devices, many infantry units in the rural areas south of Baghdad opt to use helicopters to reach their targets.

See ASSAULT

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## WTB welcomes new leaders, farewells old

Randy Murray  
Public Affairs Specialist

The Warrior's Transition Battalion gained a new leader, Feb. 22 when outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Leonard C. Porter turned over the reins to Lt. Col. Tyra Y. White at Caro Fitness Center. Soldiers and Family members listen with mixed emotions as MEDDAC commander, Col. John P. Collins, welcomed incoming commander, White, and farewelled Porter, who is retiring. The brief but formal ceremony officially transferred the unit's mission, symbolized by the passing of the unit's colors, to White.

"Air assaults extend the abilities of the ground units," said Capt. Joshua Karkalik, commander of Company B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. "A lot of times the purpose of an air assault is the element of surprise, or the target is not reachable by ground either because of the terrain or because of IEDs," Karkalik said.

The ceremony included a change of responsibility also as the unit welcomed the new top non-commissioned officer, Commad Sgt. Maj. Antonio Serrano, and said goodbye to the outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Robert S. McRae.

As an informal part of the ceremony, flowers were given to Porter's wife and to the wives and daughters of both McRae and Serrano. When a WTB Soldier presented her with a bouquet of yellow roses, Desirae Serrano, youngest daughter of Serrano, accepted them as her older sister, Jessie, smiled a Mona Lisa smile.

See WTB

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Pat Young

**Spc Nicholas Granado, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 385th Military Police Battalion, stands tall with the rest of the Dragoons during an awards ceremony held at Marne Gardens at Fort Stewart, Feb. 25.** See complete story on Page 3A.

## Congressional delegates visit installation WTU program

Randy Murray  
Public Affairs Specialist

Four Congressional delegates, trailed by local media, visited Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield to sample the installation's handling of the Army Medical Transition Battalion, Feb. 22. Following an in-depth briefing by Stewart-Hunter Medical Activity Command com-

mander, Col. John P. Collins, and garrison commander, Col. Todd Buchs, the delegates and media were given a tour of current and future WTB billeting, then they were escorted to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center. Current billeting is a group of mobile units, each containing four bedrooms for single, wounded or ill Soldiers, two Soldiers to a room. Shared bathroom/shower and laundry facilities are available as well as phone, TV,

refrigerator and microwave.

Adjacent to current WTB billeting, about a dozen former National Guard training barracks are being renovated to take the place of the current mobile units. Mike Biering, Director of Public Works, met with delegates in one of these newly renovated barracks and explained in detail what is being done to make these billets accessible to handicapped personnel, and he told them about long-

range plans for even more permanent billeting and service facilities for WTB Soldiers.

Army Community Service director, Donna Finney, and SFAC director, Diane Smith, greeted delegates at the Family Readiness Group facilities, building 87, where SFAC is temporarily located. New facilities specifically for WTB Soldiers and Family members are currently being built with scheduled completion by June 2009.

See VISIT

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Pat Young

**The Family of fallen Soldier, Pfc. Timothy Hanson, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, looks on as Spc. William Fullagar, 1/15th Inf., hands the named placard-cover to Hanson's mother, Susan, at the installation tree dedication ceremony at Warrior's Walk Feb. 21 on Fort Stewart.** See complete story on Page 11A.

## 76th IBCT prepares to leave

Special to the Frontline

The 76th Brigade Combat Team will have a departure ceremony and Family day Saturday. The Indiana National Guard unit has been mobilizing for its Iraq deployment on Fort Stewart since January. The departure ceremony is on Cottrell Field and will include the 76th BCT passing in review. Family day activities will be on Donovan Field. Interview opportunities with Soldiers and Family

members will be made available. More than 4,000 Family members are expected on Fort Stewart and in the surrounding communities this week for the day's events.

Fort Stewart will close 6th St. from Bundy to Gulick avenues during the ceremony. William H. Wilson Ave. will be open but kept clear for emergency vehicles. SBuses will be available for Family members from Cottrell Field to Donovan Field.

## NG unit receives help before, after deployment

Sgt. Tanya Polk  
Editor

When Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division redeploy, they return to their home station, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. But, when National Guard Soldiers and Reservists complete their combat tour, they return to their home of residence. No daily formations, no barracks-life, no immediate support.

See HELP

As combat stress has proven to be a contributing factor to several Soldier suicides and suicide attempts in 2007, support after deployment is critical.

The Veteran Affairs, in alliance with the Joint Forces Headquarters-Indiana and First Army, is helping to provide that much-needed support network to the Indiana National Guard Soldiers of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

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# Marne 6 Sends

## Visitors witness Soldier, Family success, sacrifice

**Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch**  
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Even though we are 6,000 miles from home, we receive a lot of visitors over here. To date, we've had over 200 visitors come to see us and thank our Soldiers. They range from the Chief of Staff of the Army to Congressional Delegations to authors. During their visits, they receive the opportunity to see the progress our magnificent Soldiers are achieving. They say seeing is believing – and when we put our visitors in the back of our helicopters and show them the amazing advancements in our year here, they see Iraq's improvements first hand.

Early in my career I was taught that a mentor is someone who is accessible, someone who listens, and someone who truly cares. In our Army we are surrounded by great mentors, and the ones who have come

to Iraq to visit us have taken our message back. They return to the United States and help us with our requests – more equipment, more personnel, better intelligence, and they tell the story to the American people.

The debates about the war are political – over here we know our Soldiers are supported by their military leaders and the leaders who take the time to come visit them and tell them “thanks.”

We miss you terribly, but back at home Army leaders are also reaching out to you. This war affects the Families more than it affects the Soldiers. I know the Army isn't breaking because so many of our Soldiers are reenlisting to stay Army, but I do worry



about the Families who have sacrificed through multiple deployments.

Today and tomorrow General Charles Campbell, our Forces Command Commander, and General Dick Cody, the Army's Vice Chief of Staff will visit Fort Stewart – and they are coming for you. Campbell will present the Division with the Composite Risk Management Award, which the Division won through the great work of Soldiers and leaders looking out for each other. Cody, and his wife Vicki, will visit simply to talk to Families and spouses through an open forum; they want to hear your concerns while your loved ones are deployed.

Both Campbell and Cody also took the time to visit us in Iraq. Last spring, Campbell attended a Prayer Breakfast with our Soldiers. He also traveled to Fort Stewart in October to sign the Army Family Covenant with you. Cody visited us in Baghdad a few weeks ago and reenlisted over 200 Soldiers in the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory. He also spent time with our Soldiers at one of our patrol bases.

For the Soldiers far from their Families, the visits of these senior leaders are very powerful; they let us know the Army cares about us. Their visits to our Families are equally powerful. While we cannot be with you, our leadership is visiting you to let you know they care – they remind you of our nation's love and support while we are away from you.

*Rock of the Marne!*

## President announces National African American History Month

Special to the Frontline

During National African American History Month, we honor the achievements and celebrate the rich heritage of African Americans.

Throughout our nation's history, African Americans from all walks of life have offered their talents to the betterment of American society. Scholars such as Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois were early leaders who placed great importance on educating all people about the need for justice and racial equality.

Athletes such as Jackie Robinson and Althea Gibson persevered while breaking the color barrier and competing at the highest levels of sports.

Musicians like Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday lifted the American spirit with their creativity and musical gifts. Through their extraordinary accomplishments, these leaders helped bring our nation closer to fulfilling its founding ideals.

This year's theme, “Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism,” honors an educator who taught his fellow citizens about the traditions and contributions of African Americans.

His dedication to educating Americans about cultural diversity initiated this celebration of African-American history.



Our nation is now stronger and more hopeful because generations of leaders like him have worked to help America live up to its promise of equality and the great truth that all of God's children are created equal.

Throughout African American History Month, we celebrate the many contributions African Americans have made to our nation, and we are reminded of their courage in their struggle to change the hearts and minds of our citizens.

While much progress has been made, we must continue to work together to achieve the promise and vision of our great nation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2008 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtysecond.**

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

## African Americans have legacy of military service

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** - Since the birth of America, African-Americans have been fighting and dying alongside their countrymen as the United States has struggled for freedom and peace at home and abroad.

African American Soldiers have fought in every war the United States has been involved in, including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the current War on Terror.

African Americans, both free and slaves, participated in all the conflicts in the early days of America. About 5,000 African-American Soldiers fought for the U.S. in the American Revolutionary War. African Americans distinguished themselves in the Boston Massacre in 1770, the Battle of Lexington and Concord in 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775, and throughout the Revolution.

In the Civil War, 180,000 African Americans made up 163 units of the Union Army, and many more served in the Union Navy. African Americans were used mostly for labor by the Confederate forces, although in 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis signed a bill authorizing the enlistment of slaves.

African American Soldiers proved themselves early in the war, such as in 1863, when the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers, commanded by Gen. James G. Blunt, ran into a strong Confederate force in what is now Oklahoma. After a two-hour bloody engagement, the Confederate Soldiers retreated. The 1st Kansas, which had held the center of the Union line, advanced to within fifty paces of the Confederate line and exchanged fire for some 20 minutes until the Confederates broke and ran.

After the battle, Blunt wrote, “I never saw such fighting as was done by the negro regiment. ... The question that negroes will fight is settled; besides they make better Soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command.”

Fifteen African American Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions in the Civil War, and another seven African American Sailors were honored for their heroism.

In 1866, federal legislation was passed that allowed African-Americans to enlist in the regular Army, and by 1869, the Army had four all-African-American units: the 9th and 10th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments. The two infantry regi-

ments were established by consolidating four infantry regiments that had been formed earlier.

It was these African American units that fought in the Indian Wars of 1867-1891, the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Philippines Insurrection from 1899 to 1901, and Gen. John Pershing's punitive expedition into Mexico in 1916. These units were dubbed “Buffalo Soldiers” by the Indians they fought against. It is thought that this nickname was given out of respect for the African-Americans' fierce fighting ability and naturally curly hair. The term “Buffalo Soldiers” became a generic term for all African-American Soldiers for many years.

The first African-American general officer in the U.S. Army was Benjamin O. Davis, of Washington, D.C. Davis entered the military on July 13, 1898, during the Spanish-American War, as a temporary first lieutenant of the 8th United States Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered out on March 6, 1899, and on June 18, 1899, he enlisted as a private in Troop 1, 9th Cavalry, of the regular Army. He then served as corporal and squadron sergeant major, and on Feb. 2, 1901, he was commissioned a second lieutenant of cavalry in the regular Army.

Davis reached the rank of brigadier general on Oct. 25, 1940. He retired on July 31, 1941, and was recalled to active duty with the rank of brigadier general the following day. During his career, Davis served with the 9th and 10th Cavalry; was a professor of military science and tactics at Wilberforce University, Ohio, and Tuskegee, Ala.; served as a brigade commander in 2nd Cavalry Division; and served as an assistant to the inspector general in Washington, D.C.

Davis' son, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., was the fourth African-American graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and the nation's second African-American general officer.

Although the U.S. armed forces remained segregated throughout World War I, many African-Americans volunteered and fought with U.S. forces. By the end of the war, more than 350,000 African-Americans had served in the conflict, 1,400 of whom were commissioned officers.

Many African-American units were relegated to support roles during World War I, but several units did distinguish themselves in combat. One of the most famous units was the 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the “Harlem Hellfighters,” which was on the front lines for six months. One hundred seventy-one members of the 396th were awarded the Legion of Merit medal. In World War II, more than 2.5 million African-

Americans registered for service, but only one million actually served. African-American servicemembers served in Casablanca, Italy, the Aleutians, Northern Ireland, Liberia, New Guinea, the China-Burma-India theater, Guam, Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Saipan, Okinawa, Peleliu, Australia, France, and England.

It was during World War II that the famed Tuskegee Airmen served. Actually the 332nd Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps, the Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military pilots. The 332nd's most notable mission was escorting bombing raids into Austria, Hungary, Poland and Germany. The pilots flew more than 15,000 sorties and were awarded several Silver Stars, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, integrating the armed forces and eliminating racial discrimination in federal employment. Segregation in the military officially ended in 1954, when the last all-African-American unit was abolished.

The Korean War and Vietnam War both saw many great accomplishments by African-American servicemembers. In the Korean War, Jesse L. Brown, the first African-American U.S. Navy aviator, was killed when his plane was shot down during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. The Navy honored Brown by naming an escort ship after him -- the USS Jesse L. Brown.

During the Vietnam War, African-Americans continued to join the military in large numbers. Overall, 20 African-Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor. African American enlistment into the U.S. military jumped with the advent of the all-volunteer force in 1973. African Americans made up about 17 percent of the military's enlisted force when the draft ended in 1973. By the early 1980s, African Americans made up nearly 24 percent of the enlisted force. When the United States and its allies pushed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991, the most senior officer in the U.S. military was an African-American, Army Gen. Colin L. Powell, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Powell later served as secretary of state in President George W. Bush's administration.

Today, African Americans continue to serve the nation as members of the military during the war on terror. February is African American History Month, which celebrates the contributions African Americans have made in the U.S. over the years.

## Moments in Marne History:

### The first African American unit to train at Camp Stewart

**Sasha McBrayer**  
Fort Stewart Museum

The first African American unit to train at Camp Stewart was the 90th Coast Artillery. The 90th was organized from the 100th Coast Artillery Regiment at Camp Davis, North Carolina and activated here on May 1, 1942. The men of the 90th tolerated their treatment and remained focused upon their mission of training in a time of national emergency in the early days of World War II. The 90th would serve first in North Africa and later be sent to Italy.

Letters from one of these Soldiers, Henry C. McAlister, are currently in the collections of the Fort Stewart Museum. While still with the 90th at Camp Stewart, McAlister recalls his highly technical training:

“I can remember quite vividly as I was Chief of the

Range Section and ‘A’ Battery had the only Elector-Mechanical Computer in the Battalion at the time. I taught officers and enlisted men the operation and maintenance of this machine known as the M-7 Director used with the 90mm gun.”

Later McAlister was transferred to the 612th AAA Training Battalion, which later became the 741st AAA Gun Battalion. In August 1943 McAlister moved to Camp Stoneman, California and from there shipped to the South Pacific. McAlister recalls his company being sent to an island about 150 miles from Rabul, to guard a hospital.

The 7141st was later regrouped and consolidated at Hollinda, New Guinea and the unit remained there until the surrender of Japan. McAlister continued to serve honorably with the 741st AAA Gun Battalion until the unit was deactivated, November 1945.



Courtesy Photo

**A Soldier from the 90th Coast Artillery works on a power-generated plant in Casablanca, June 1943.**



# 70 Dragoons awarded for service to country



**Pat Young**  
*Managing Editor*

More than 70 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 385th Military Police Battalion, were recognized with an award ceremony, Feb. 25 at Marne Gardens.

Col. John F. Garrity, 16th Military Police Brigade commander at Fort Bragg, N.C., was the guest speaker at the ceremony, welcoming home Soldiers who recently returned home from duty in Afghanistan.

He said their 15-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom was marked by exceptional acts of bravery, service and commitment to the ideals of freedom-loving people.

“Task Force Dragoon distinguished itself as the only military police battalion serving in Afghanistan,” said Garrity. “The Soldiers standing here today have suffered hardships from both the heart condition as well as the emotional burden of being separated from their loved ones from an arduous 15 months.”

He commended the Soldiers for their efforts and recognized their achievements, noting they set a great example for units serving in Afghanistan. He said their accomplishments added to the already distinguished legacy of the 385th MP

Battalion.

The unit was constituted in October 1944 and activated six days later on Nov. 3, 1944 in Requiell Sarthe, France with the primary mission to provide European railway security. The unit distinguished itself with battalion campaign participation credits, to include Rhineland, World War II, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Army Superior Unit award (1990-1991).

Garrity thanked the Soldiers for their dedication and their commitment to making a difference.

“Thank you for serving with honor and showing the people of Afghanistan that the United States of America is committed to their safety and their freedom,” Garrity said. “Thank you to the Families and the friends who endured 15 months of separation; who lived their lives without their Soldiers at home and faced tough days and nights because of that separation. Your courage as Family members is no less as important because you gave these heroes the strength to carry on.”

The day’s awards included 13 Bronze Star Medals; 16 Meritorious Service Medals; 29 Army Commendation Medals; eight Army Achievement Medals; and seven Certificates of Achievement.

Photos by Pat Young

**Left: Col. John Garrity, 16th MP Brigade commander, pins the Bronze Star Medal on Sgt. Maj. Richard Epps at the HHD, 385th MP award ceremony held at Marne Gardens on Fort Stewart, Feb. 25.**

**Below: Seventy-three 385th MP Soldiers stand tall during an award ceremony held upon the return of the unit from service in Afghanistan.**



**Above: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) William Rolston, installation chaplain opens the ceremony giving thanks for the units safe return from Afghanistan, Feb. 25 at Marne Gardens.**

**Left: Col. John Garrity, 16th MP Bde. commander calls the Soldiers to a semi-circle to address, and thank them and their Families for their sacrifice and excellent service.**



# Children don’t supervise themselves, take responsibility

**Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Durr**  
USGA Command Sgt. Maj.

It is a great time to be a part of the Fort Stewart – Hunter Army Airfield Family. All of us are awaiting the return of our Family members who are overseas fighting the war against terrorism. I encourage each and every member of this community to get physically, mentally, and confidently ready to receive our heroes.

In the same breath, let’s make sure the household is in order and that we are abiding by the local rules and regulations designed to help keep our employees, Families, and especially children safe.

Let’s take a moment to test our awareness as to what rules and regulations help to protect our children.

Did you know that the garrison commander has issued strict and clear policies aimed at protecting our children? Yes, the commander insists that you not only be aware of the policy but that you adhere to it.

I am totally in agreement with the commander as he declares safeguarding children to be a parent/guardian’s responsibility. He feels that all children need to be provided the opportunity to grow and learn in a safe atmosphere free of fear, especially during the upcoming summer months and school intercessions.

The commander declares that parents can provide that safe atmosphere by ensuring the good health and safety of their children and

by providing appropriate supervision in playground areas and outside the home.

First of all, playing in the streets is prohibited. Anyone noting violation of this rule is encouraged to contact the agencies named at the end of this commentary.

I can imagine that the question you have is, “So what does this means to me,” or “at what age can I relax on ensuring the safety of my child?”

Let me break this down by age:  
**Children in grade 6 and younger (under age 13)**

Children in this category require supervision. Such supervision may be provided by parents, other adults, child development services/school age services or, in some instances, children who are at least 13 years of age.

Under this rule, children will not be left unsupervised in quarters at any time, nor will they be left under the supervision of other children for extended periods.

Additionally, *children in grade 5 and below* will not be left unattended for any period in a vehicle. And while we are talking about vehicles; children weighing less than 40 pounds must be secured in a child protective driving seat.

**Children in grade 7 and above**



Use good judgment for children in this category. If your child’s maturity level does not fit the bill of being home alone, he or she needs supervision. The commander recommends, though, that if your 7th or 8th grader is mature enough and is no younger than 13 years old, he or she may care for children up to three hours if he or she has attended the babysitting class for teens.

*Children in grades 9 – 12* may care for children up to eight hours.

However, children will not be supervised by anyone under the age of 18 years of age for more than eight hours or overnight. Additionally, *children 15 years and under* will not be left alone overnight without adult supervision.

Also, keep in mind that Georgia has a mandatory seat belt law for youth and adults – they must be fastened in their seats.

**Curfew for Fort Stewart – Hunter Army Airfield children**

Be advised that *children 11 years of age or younger* shall be inside their home or someone else’s home between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of an adult 18 years or older.

*Children 12 years or older but less than 15* shall be inside their home or someone else’s

home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of an adult 18 or older, or they can be returning home directly from a community/school-organized function or facility, a youth services program, traveling to/from verifiable employment, or responding to a bona fide emergency.

**Children 15 but younger than 18 years of age**

These children shall be inside their home or someone else’s home between midnight and 6 a.m., unless they are under the supervision of an adult 18 years or older, or are returning home directly from a community/school-organized function or facility, youth services program, to/from verifiable employment or are responding to a bona fide emergency.

Parents and/or guardians are responsible for compliance with the above command policies. If the child is in the company of an adult other than a parent during the curfew period, the parent must have authorized the adult to supervise and be responsible for the child.

I encourage the entire community to get on board with adherence to these policies. If any of you notices any situation or action that endangers the security of our minors, please report the information to **Social Work Service** - Stewart at 435-6779 or Hunter at 315-5236; **Army Community Service** - Stewart at 767-5058 or Hunter at 315-6815; or **Directorate of Emergency Services** - Stewart at 767-2822 or Hunter at 315-6133.

## Australia comes to Stewart-Hunter travel fairs

**Tim Hipps**  
FMWRC Public Affairs

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** – The joint services Australia Military Tours Program might encourage folks who ever had a desire to vacation “Down Under” to take the plunge.

The U.S. Army Information, Ticket and Reservation Travel Show, featuring Australian Getaways, will be at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., on March 5 and Fort Stewart on March 6.

“This is an opportunity for people who have ever considered travel to Australia to get firsthand information and an idea of what they might want to do to put on their itinerary if they do book a trip,” said Dan Yount, director of Army Leisure Travel at the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command in Alexandria, Va. “We have this great booking tool that they can use to plan an itinerary and get all kinds of information by going to [www.offdutytravel.com](http://www.offdutytravel.com) and clicking

on the joint services special.

“They can sign in and start playing around and do multiple itineraries. When they’re ready, they simply contact their designated ITR or ITT office, who will then coordinate with the staff in Perth, Australia to get the price for that itinerary and to get that information back to the individual.”

Representatives from more than 12 major attractions and tourist destinations will feature some of the most affordable Australian vacation packages available at the travel shows. Among the participants: Australia Zoo, Captain Cook Cruises, Accor Hotels, Quantas Airlines, Costello’s Opals, Tropic Wings Tours, Sydney Aquarium, Wildlife World, Australian Day Tours, Sunlover Great Barrier Reef Tours, Cairns Tropical Zoo and Bridge Climb.

“For years we did surveys and Australia kept coming up as a dream vacation,” Yount said. “We have been able to make it affordable.”



Courtesy Photo

Sydney Opera House



## The Civilian Personnel Activity Center

### Employment opportunities for youth

The Human Resources Office recruits year-round to place ages 16 and up into non-appropriated fund positions. The office is presently recruiting for permanent flexible positions as **custodial workers; food service workers; laborers; waiters/waitresses (trainee); recreation aids; and lifeguards** (for summer months).

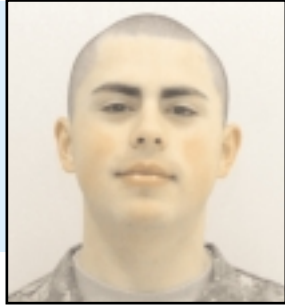
For further information on these or other jobs contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Job Information Center at 767-5051. Our office is located in room 2013A, Building 253, Soldier Support Center, 55 Pony Soldier Avenue. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday

## Marne Voices Speak Out

The 76th BCT is getting ready to deploy. What words of wisdom or advice do you have for the Soldiers and their Families?

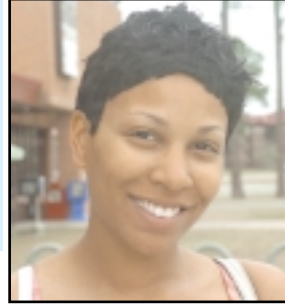
“I’d tell their Family members the same thing I tell mine – just keep us in your prayers”

**Pvt. Peter Stincer**  
4/64 Armor



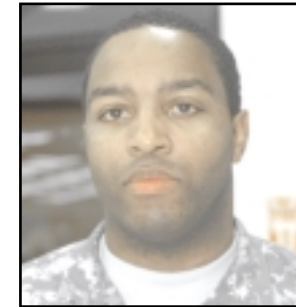
“Soldiers should go there with a positive spirit. Be confident in yourself and your unit.”

**Mindy McDougall**  
Family member



“Stay in touch. My son is over there. The more frequently he calls or e-mails, the easier it is.”

**Elizabeth Davison**  
Family member



“Make sure all your affairs back here are in order before you go, i.e., power of attorney, vehicle registration, tags, decals.”  
**Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Washington**  
Special Troops Battalion



“Find a hobby and stay busy. Have a couple really good friends to spend time with.”

**Michelle Lammers**  
Family member



“The FRG should do more video teleconferencing for Families and Soldiers.”

**Staff Sgt. Mario Padon**  
Co. A, WTB

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Munitions from a large cache found, Feb. 10, near Jurf as Sakhr, Iraq, by Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Co. A, 3/7th Inf. Regt., 4th BCT, 3rd Inf. Div.

Courtesy Photo

## Munitions cache found near Jurf as Sakhr

Special to the Frontline  
4th BCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – Coalition Forces found a weapon cache buried in a large mound of dirt in Jurf as Sakhr, Iraq, Feb. 10. The cache consisted of 120 mm, 82 mm and 23 mm munitions and mortar fuses. Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division found the cache through intelligence from local residents. The platoon went to the area with a mine detec-

tor to do an assessment. “We were searching for a suspected rocket cache that was reported in a DIR (Draft Intelligence Report) and we were digging wherever the mine detector was going off,” said 1st Lt. Chris Blom, from Gadsden, Ala., executive officer for Company A. “We had two mine detector kits scanning an area about the size of an entire grid square. It was going off over the loose dirt that was dug up recently, so we started digging and we kept pulling stuff out.” The munitions that were found were new, indicating that there are people in the area still stockpiling weapons.

## IEDs, weapons cache destroyed

Special to the Frontline  
2nd BCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – Four improvised explosive devices and a weapons cache consisting of various munitions were found and destroyed, Feb. 10 in Arab Jabour. Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, located the IEDs and cache while conducting operations southeast of their patrol base. Each of the four IEDs, all pressure plate-

initiated, consisted of two 57 mm projectiles. One of the IEDs also contained a 2-liter bottle of homemade explosives. The weapons cache was found near the IEDs. The cache consisted of 100 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, one 9 mm semi-automatic rifle, one 9 mm pistol, one 57 mm projectile, three AK-47 magazines, one fragmentation grenade, one set of Iraqi body armor and miscellaneous fuses. An explosive ordnance disposal team was called in to investigate and dispose of the IEDs and caches via a controlled detonation.

## Weapon cache found in Babahani

Special to the Frontline  
4th BCT Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – Coalition Forces and Iraqi Army Soldiers found two large weapon caches containing 361 60mm mortars, 34 82mm mortars and 45 rocket-propelled grenade mortars in the area of

Babahani, Iraq, Feb. 12. Soldiers from Military Transition Team 842, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division were looking for the caches based on intelligence received by the Iraqi brigade. “The Iraqi army has

matured into a tough, dedicated and competent force and is more than capable of conducting independent operations on par with their American counterparts,” said Capt. Alex Vershinin, from New Albany, Ohio, M1TT 842. An explosive ordnance disposal team disposed of the caches with a controlled detonation.

## Large cache discovered in southern Arab Jabour


Special to the Frontline  
5/7th Cav. Regt.

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – A local citizen led Coalition forces conducting a foot patrol near the village of Minori in southern Arab Jabour to a massive weapons cache, Feb. 8. The cache, recovered by Soldiers from Troop B, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, consisted of 59 rocket-propelled grenades, eight rockets, 128 propellant charges, 32 ammunition canisters with a variety of rounds and five 57 mm mortar illumination rounds. First Lt. Levi Lenon said Coalition forces are working with citizens to make the community safe and secure. Spc. Kevin Sands, from Irrigon, Ore., said results are beginning to show. “Hard work pays off; this is a big find for us.”



Courtesy Photo

Pvt. Jose Nunez, Troop B, 5/7th Cav., 1st BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., carries munitions from the site of a large weapons cache found in southern Arab Jabour, Feb. 8.



## Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

### Lifeguards wanted

Now Hiring! Summer Lifeguard Positions available at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. First cut-off for applications is March 8th. Call 912-767-3034 or 315-5078 for more information.

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### St. Patrick's Day Brunch

**2 Mar. – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Club Stewart**  
Come join us for a delicious St. Patty's Day brunch. The menu features breakfast items, Irish stew, soda bread, corned beef with horseradish sauce, steamed buttered cabbage, candied carrots, lamb stew, herb roasted chicken, apple oatmeal crisp, salad bar, dessert station, and a beer station with green beer, Irish whiskey, and Guinness. The cost is \$11.95 per person, children 5-10 half price, under 4 FREE. Get \$1 off each meal with a church bulletin. For more information, call 368-2212.

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### St. Patrick's Day Cooking Class

**2 Mar. – 3 p.m., Club Stewart**  
Come join us for an afternoon of games, activities and much more. The cost is \$5 per child (ages 5-12) and reservations are required. Class space is limited to 50 so sign-up today. For more information, call 368-2212.

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### Dr. Seuss Day at FS Library

**5 Mar. – 3:30 p.m., FS Library**  
Come celebrate Dr Seuss Day with stories and crafts relating to Seussville. 767-2828.

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### 2008 Travel Show

**5 Mar. – 1-6 p.m., Hunter Club**  
**6 Mar. – 1-6 p.m., Club Stewart**  
The travel show will showcase a variety of vendors who offer vacations and travel arrangements at reduced rates for Soldiers and Families. Door prizes will be given away to attendees. Now is the time to book your next vacation, don't miss the 2008 Travel Show. 767-2841 /315-3674.

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### Mardi Gras Teen Dance

**7 Mar – 7-10 p.m., FS Youth Center**  
Come dressed in your Mardi Gras attire and dance your heart out. There is no cost to attend. Open to grades 8-12. 767-4491.

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### Family Fun Ride and Bicycle Safety Checks

**8 Mar. – 12 p.m., Tominac Fitness Center**  
Come get a free bicycle safety check and get your bike ready for spring. A group bike ride will also be held at 1 p.m. 315-2019.

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### GEICO-Ohio Wesleyan University Collegiate Golf Tournament

**13-15 Mar. – Hunter Golf Club**  
Come play in the College-Am portion of the tournament. The College-Am is a four person scramble with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun. \$65 entry fee covers green fees, driving range balls, tournament fee, lunch, post tournament social, prizes, golf car fee, and the opportunity to play with a player slated for PGA tour status. Register by 12 Mar 315-9115.



# Medic reflects about time in service

**Spc. Ricardo Branch**  
1st BCT Public Affairs

**CAMP RAMADI, Iraq** – Few people meet Spc. Franklin Foose and walk away unchanged by the experience; that's mostly because he is a medic in the Army.

"Anytime I need medical help, I go to Foose," said Spc. Khemra Sam, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team. "You can go to him for anything."

In his workplace at the 1/3 Brigade Troops Battalion aid station, Foose has an impact on his fellow medics.

"He's mentored me since I've been a private," said Spc. Sarah Prout, a fellow medic in the 1/3 BTB. "He's taught me everything I know as a medic out here and I don't think I'd be where I am without him."



**Spc. Franklin Foose, HHC, 1/3 BTB medic, prepares a syringe for a patient Feb. 22 at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.**

Raised outside of Pine Grove, Pa., Foose, 23, began his life in a small town with only two stop signs, no traffic lights and no gas station. His town is situated in a valley with approximately 200 people who used to mine coal years ago.

"The town is so small, the post office only delivered mail within walking distance," he said. "I lived two miles away, so mail was always late."

There was never much to do in his hometown, so Foose and his friends would create their own fun: hunting, partying and hanging out.

The town didn't have a school, so Foose attended classes 17 miles away at Blue Mountain High School and grew up playing sports.

His parents were always supportive of any decision he made, so he enlisted in the Army after his 17th birthday in the fall of 2002.

He decided to be a medic for the challenge it presented him. He said that one of the reasons for becoming a medic was the T.V. show M.A.S.H. Although, with a laugh, he admits this is not much like the show.

"I don't know what I'd be if I wasn't a medic," Foose said. "I know I never saw myself as an infantryman because the medical field seemed like a bigger challenge for me."

Foose has been deployed three times in the Army. He deployed the first time with 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry in Baghdad in 2003, then again with 1/3 BTB to Samarra in 2005, and then to Ramadi with the BTB for Operation Iraqi Freedom V in 2007.

"This is by far the hardest of the three deployments," he said. "My first two deployments I wasn't married. This one, I have a daughter and a wife and it's hard because I miss them a lot."

Work's not hard for Foose because his experiences taught him how to treat patients.

"I've treated everything from gunshot wounds to the head to missing limbs and pieces. I've seen it all I guess," he said. "The biggest problems medics have out here is that medicine is not completely accurate."

Trauma, such as a missing limb, is by the book, but treating sick-call ailments, such as a chest pain, can go either way with multiple solutions to the problem that can be right.

"People often won't be confident enough to make a decision, or you have to make a decision, and you could be right or wrong," Foose said. "If you don't do anything, you will be wrong and that's usually where most people have the biggest problem."

A good day for him is having no one call him for anything. Foose has worked the entire deployment with very little time off, and it has taken a toll on him.

"A day off," he laughed. "That's really the best day out here."

You can't expect to have a lot of time off, but a day here and there would be great."

In the short span of Foose's military career, he has done many things he didn't expect he would do. He enlisted during a war, he's treated Soldiers on the battlefield, and he's become a husband and recently a father.

"I've no regrets," he said. "The military has its ups and downs. The Army lets you do things that you'd never have the opportunity to do as a civilian, but at the same time, you have to sacrifice some of your personal life."

Foose said the Army makes life seem smaller to him from his experiences.

"In the Army, you don't need to wait 50 years of your life to realize life's going to end someday," he said. "What I've been through makes everything seem shorter and now I live for the moment and not for the long run."

One of the first experiences of his life in the military that made Foose the man he is today was when he treated his first patient. He said he was sleeping in a trailer in Baghdad when someone woke him up early to take care of patients.

"I grabbed all my gear and hopped in a truck going outside the gate," he said. "Our quick reaction force was just returning back to the camp and came across an ambushed military convoy. When I arrived, there were four people lying on the ground, who were in serious conditions."

That day on Main Supply Route Tampa, Foose treated his first casualty on his own, an 18-year-old Soldier peppered with shrapnel. The young man asked him if he would be okay while Foose worked to dress his injuries and get him stable for an air medical evacuation.

"The first time you treat someone by yourself, you'll never forget it," he said. "You do everything you can and will still think about what you could have done more for him."

Foose said the guys' watching their friend being treated think it's tough, but medics remember their first time treating someone for years.

Many Soldiers get out of the military after multiple deployments to Iraq. Foose is getting out as well, but it's to do what means most to him, and that's to raise his family.

"My goal in life is to have a family," he said. "I've done jobs before the Army where I was concerned with money, but I know now I really don't need money to be happy."

Foose's happiness was sparked when he met his wife, Elizabeth, and then blossomed even further after the birth of their daughter, Olivia. Though he's leaving military service, he takes many memories, good and bad, but one thing stands out. "Life's not about what you do really, it's more about who you affect," he said.

"I don't care how high I get on any totem pole, as long as the people I impact along my way are happy, then I'm happy."

## Passing signals, commo techs transmit pride

**Pfc. Monica K. Smith**  
3rd CAB Public Affairs

**CAMP STRIKER, Iraq** – Communication is vital in maintaining the safety of aircraft and their crews. As aircraft fly across the battlefield, crews must be able to communicate with each other. The farther they fly from camps and forward operating bases, the weaker signals become.

A retransmission team, part of Company C, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, the Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division's signal company, works to maintain and improve communication across Iraq, ensuring the mission runs without a hitch.

"The CAB retrans provides the aircraft in the aviation brigade the ability to talk securely throughout their battle space, from Camp Striker in Baghdad, to Forward Operating Base Kalsu, over the FM radio," said Sgt. Stephanie Jones, Co. C, 603rd ASB.

The retransmission team takes the signals aircraft need for communication, such as radio, and resends as a stronger wave to ensure the helicopter can fly the entire mission able to communicate with traffic towers and other aircraft. In order to resend the signal properly, the retrans team is located between FOB Kalsu and Camp Striker at FOB Mahmudiyah, 25 miles south of Camp Striker.

Jones likened the process to the tin can theory. "If you had two cans with a string connecting them over a very long distance," Jones said, "we would be in the middle of the two cans relaying the message from one to the other."

Rather than tin cans, the retrans team uses frequency hop waves, which change the radio channels helicopters use multiple times in flight. The channels change at the same time so the pilots are able to talk without a breakdown in communication. The radios used are encrypted and the radio waves are transmitted through two antennas. The team at FOB Mahmudiyah operates with three Soldiers. It is currently manned by Jones,

Sgt. Paul Jean and Spc. Calvin Tatum. Every 30 days, two of the personnel rotate from FOB Mahmudiyah back to Camp Striker, sending new Soldiers to work on the retrans team. These three people work continuously to guarantee pilots have the ability to communicate in air.

"When the aviation brigade is conducting missions in our area of operations the retrans unit runs 24-hour operations," Jones said. "Each person pulls an eight-hour shift monitoring the net to ensure the retrans is 100 percent operational. We have supported the CAB during Operation Marne Husky, other various operations and unmanned aerial vehicle missions."

Though a small team, Jean says they take pride in the work they do.

"I suppose someone could do our job with the proper training but I wouldn't suggest that," Jean said. "Why, you ask? Because only a signal support systems specialist can do a signal support systems specialist's job. We take pride in our operations."



# Vanguard brigade FRG, rear det to hold Family activities

**Pat Young**

*Managing Editor*

The 4th Brigade Family Readiness Group, rear-detachment and Army Community Service invites community members to two special upcoming Vanguard events.

These upcoming Vanguard activities are designed to test the mind and the body; one open to the public, the other designed for Vanguard Families.

The first event, open to anyone with a reservation, is the Vanguard Recipes for a Successful Deployment seminar, 10 a.m., March 8 at the Main Post Chapel. The semi-

nar is on organization, quick healthy meals, the Military Child Educational Coalition, and ACS.

The MCEC is an organization that encourages Families to sit down and read together, helping children of military Families deal with concerns such as deployments. At this event, MCEC features "Separated by Duty, United In Love - A guide to long-distance relationships for military couples" by Shellie Vandevoorde. Each Family that attends will receive a free copy.

Kathryn Howison, 4th Brigade Combat Team Family Readiness Support Assistant, said the seminar is designed to provide

information and help Families succeed during deployments.

Space is limited, so Families need to reserve their spot as early as possible. Child care is available.

"We want to educate as many Families as possible in the hopes that we can help them be prepared to face the daily dilemmas we all face during our daily lives as Army spouses throughout these deployments," Howison said regarding the upcoming deployment seminar.

The second major event is open to 4th BCT Families, past and present - the Vanguard Combat Spouse Badge competi-

tion.

The event will be held April 19 on Vanguard Field. Families are encouraged to come out and be a Soldier for a day, or cheer on the participants. Activities will include the Army Physical Fitness Test, litter carry, Mission Oriented Urban Training, Tug-of-War, Common Task Testing, and Education Skills Training. Following the competition, there will be a cook-out and an awards ceremony for all participants and their Families.

For more information, call Kathryn Howison, 4th BCT Family Readiness Support Advisor at 767-1749.



## Wounded warrior at Winn awarded Order of Purple Heart for Military Merit

Ann Erickson

**Staff Sgt. Cory Surla is congratulated by Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick Marshall after being awarded the Purple Heart during a ceremony Feb. 22 at Winn Army Community Hospital.**

**During the ceremony, Surla also reenlisted in the Army to show that his injuries would not stop him from continuing his service to the country. Surla, a Health Care noncommissioned officer, was deployed with the 10th Mountain Division, 1st Brigade, Special Troop Battalion and attached to the Combined Explosive Exploitation Cell.**

**On Sept. 22, 2005, Surla was driving in a convoy from Abu Ghraib, Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle causing his injuries. Surla is now assigned to Winn Army Community Hospital as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Pediatric Clinic.**

**The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit, commonly called The Purple Heart, is an American decoration, the oldest military decoration in the world in present use, according to the Web site, [www.purpleheartchapter.org](http://www.purpleheartchapter.org). It was initially created as a badge of military merit by Gen. George Washington.**

**The Purple Heart is now awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is a combat decoration.**





ASSAULT

From Page 1A

The ground troop commander prepares the mission, decides what targets to hit and then works with his aviation representative to create an initial concept of the operation where they lay out what they want, how many people they are trying to move and where they are trying to go.

The first meeting with the aviators is called the “aviation mission coordination meeting.” During this meeting, aviators look at the ground commander’s intent and try to create an arrangement that would facilitate his plan.

With a plan in place, the aviators present it

to the ground commander during an air mission brief.

“This is the ‘good idea’ cutoff point,” said Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Gunter, Co. B, 4/3 Avn. Regt., from River Fall, Ala. “This is where we tell the ground units, ‘This is what the aviation unit can give you,’ and we finalize the plans,” he said.

Finally there is an air crew brief, a detailed brief describing all events and actions down to the second, including show times, landing times and even who calls for refueling when the aircraft return.

“We get detailed because air assaults are the most difficult,” said Karkalik, a Jasper, Ind., native.

“There are so many variables included. Everything can change. There are a lot of elements, a lot of moving pieces. What seems to be a simple mission can become complex,” Karkalik said.

A conditions check is performed on the night of the mission which includes weather reports and a preflight inspection of the aircraft and equipment. The infantry unit is picked up, and an operations and intelligence report is conducted to keep all Soldiers, both aviation and infantry, on the same page.

“Sometimes the information is three or four days old and we need a refresher to make sure we all have the same information based off the current and correct details,” Karkalik said.

During the mission each person has an assigned job. The flight leaders get the Soldiers to the target on time, while the air mission commander looks at the big picture and makes decisions in case of contingencies.

“With multiple aircraft trying to land and take off in one area, it can be very difficult,” said Karkalik. “That is, unless you’re Bravo Company.”

Since deploying to Iraq, 4/3 Avn. Regt. has conducted more than 160 air assaults with Company B. The sheer numbers mean they’ve gained experiences they can apply to other missions.

“With the experience we learned out there with other units, we are able to apply them to new missions,” Karkalik said. “The ground

units have come to expect (aviators) to provide input on the aviation side such as with landing heading and which way they should exit the aircraft.”

The aviators’ expertise helps the infantry Soldiers take their enemies unaware.

“It gives the ground troops the element of surprise. It doesn’t give the enemy a chance to run because we’re there and they have nowhere to go,” said Spc. Rolando Rodriguez, Company A, 4/3 Avn. Regt., from Barstow, Calif.

“They’re being blocked off to the north and south and we have Lighthorse (Kiowa Warriors from 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment), and Vipers (Apaches from 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment) keeping watch overhead. We’re there and we’re quick; there’s nothing really to it,” Rodriguez said.

Despite the hard work involved, many aviators say air assaults are the most enjoyable of their missions.

“(Air assaults) might get tough but you never get bored,” said Chief Warrant Officer Joel Fonseca, Co. B, 4/3 Avn. Regt., from Salem, Mo.

“Everything happens quickly and the missions are so different you are always doing something new... and it’s not as mundane as VIP missions,” Fonseca said.

Gunter said he enjoys air assaults because of the direct impact they make on the enemy.

“They know that at any given night we can land in their backyard and snatch them,” he said. “It’s got to be a humbling experience to be ‘Mr. Big and Bad’ and then it changes really fast.”



Above: A door gunner, with 4/3 Aviation participates in Operation Iron Boston, Jan. 27, in Iraq.

Right: Soldiers load up a Black Hawk helicopter as 4/3 Aviation participates in Operation Iron Boston, Jan. 27.



Visit

From Page 1A

Wounded, injured or ill Soldiers assigned to the WTB are either pending a Medical Evaluation Board or their medical condition requires long-term care of six months or more. According to Collins, only 3 percent of the more than 400 Soldiers currently assigned to Stewart-Hunter’s WTB are wounded in action. Most Warriors in Transition are injured or ill Soldiers, he explained.

According to Buchs, the Army is determined to establish long-term solutions that provide a lifetime of care.

The Army Medical Action Plan is the Army’s 2007 initiative to establish a system in which wounded or ill Soldiers receive the medical treatment they need to heal and the rehabilitation they need to return to duty or return to the civilian community. WT battalions are consolidated units of active and

reserve Soldiers, consisting of companies with the normal chain of command down to the squad leader, an E-6 specially trained to meet the medical and psychological needs of WTs. Squads have no more than 12 WTs per squad leader; there are no more than 36 WTs per nurse case manager; and there are no more than 200 WTs per primary care manager.

Collins explained the Army is also increas-

ing awareness and recognition of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury and teaching care managers to identify high risk Soldiers in order to prevent suicide and make risk assessments for Soldiers taking several medications.

Other strategies in place to help WTs and their Families include a Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline, monthly town meetings and a trained “Ombudsmen.”

WTB

From Page 1A

Porter, a native of Kansas City, Mo., leaves command of the WTB, having served the Army since July 1966 when he first enlisted and served a one-year tour in Vietnam (1967-1968). He received a direct commission as a second lieutenant in 1979. Porter attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and holds a Masters from Clarke-Atlanta University’s School of Social Work. His military service includes an assignment as a civil affairs officer and a series of command assignments in the Army National Guard and Army Reserves with the Army Medical Corps, culminating with his May 2007 command of the 3320th Garrison Support Unit Medical Retention Battalion, now renamed the Warriors in Transition Battalion.

Porter is married to the former JoAnn McKenon of Valdosta, Ga. They have a son, Anthony.

According to Collins, Porter and McRae were the pioneers who implemented the Army Medical Action Plan at Stewart-Hunter, which is intended to help injured and ill Soldiers by ensuring they receive the medical treatment necessary for them to heal as well as provide the vocational rehabilitation necessary for them to return to duty or transition back to the civilian community. He commended them for the job they did to help both Soldiers and their Families, then he charged the new commander and command sergeant major to maintain the same focus on Soldiers’ healing.

“Through the fog of battle,” Collins told White, Serrano and all other WTB leaders attending the ceremony, “always keep an eye on your Soldiers, both those that need to heal and those taking care of them.”

White, a Baton Rouge, La. native, received a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from West Virginia State University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Military Police Corps in 1982.

She has attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and holds a Masters with Honors-Cum Laude from Touro University International. After 10 years active military service, she began her career in law enforcement as a member of the Detroit Metropolitan Police Department while continuing her military career by serving the Army National Guard. In June 2006, White was assigned to the Pentagon as Personnel Policy Integrator for Reserve Component Promotion.

White has a daughter, Tiffany, a high school sophomore.

Following the change of command ceremony and a lunch reception, White and Serrano took part in a briefing and tour of WTB facilities, designed to show congressional delegates and local news media what is being done at Stewart-Hunter to help wounded, injured or ill Soldiers and their Families.



Kristin Smith

Incoming Warriors in Transition Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Tyra White, receives the unit colors, and responsibility for the unit from Col. John Collins, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Medical Activity commander, in a ceremony held at Cairo Gym, Feb. 22.

HELP

From Page 1A

Currently, the 76th IBCT is in the final stages of mobilization at Fort Stewart. The 188th Infantry Brigade, First Army has helped to prepare the Indiana-based troops for combat by immersing them in a complete Iraq-like environment and challenging the soon-to-deploy Soldiers with complex events.

“(Soldiers with the 76th IBCT ) will go outside the wire and experience an exceptionally stressful environment, anywhere between 12 and 18 hours of combat,” explained 188th Commander, Col. George Geczy. “They’ll not only be in a combat environment, but they’ll (encounter) events that none of us can even imagine. ... We’re replicating that environment here.”

And although simulating a combat environment has helped prepare the 76th for war, the help extended to them doesn’t stop there.

Key leaders of the 188th met with representatives of Veteran Affairs Southeastern Network and two members of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on Veteran Affairs, Cathleen Wimbledo and Delores Dunn, to discuss how they plan to help the 76th before, during, and after their deployment, Feb. 20.

“We’re trying hard, and really putting a lot of effort into it,” said Luke Stapleton, acting chief medical officer with the Veteran Affairs Southeast Network, during the meeting.

These efforts include several outreach programs and major involvement during the reintegration process – all in an attempt to prevent suicide among Soldiers and their Family members.

The Veteran Affairs has been in the 76th’s back pocket from the beginning, providing the troops with a suicide prevention hotline

and several information campaigns.

Stapleton said that a Veteran Affairs booth was set up at the 76th’s farewell ceremony in Indiana, Jan. 2, and will set up again for the Soldiers and Families during the brigade’s Family day, Saturday.

“We want to give the awareness to the Families that are left behind,” Stapleton said. In addition, Veteran Affairs has imbedded liaisons at ten medical treatment facilities and at poly-trauma networks and centers.

Not only has the Veteran Affairs worked to support the 76th before their deployment, but the VA is committed to support the 76th upon their redeployment. Stapleton explained that when Soldiers need help, be it mental or physical, after serving in a combat environment, it takes time to set up an appointment to get the care they need.

“(Veteran Affairs, however) provides 24-

hour access for anyone who says ‘I need to see somebody’, and that’s unheard of anywhere else in the United States,” Stapleton said.

Stapleton explained that Veteran Affairs, as a major support channel for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, don’t just set up booths and wait for the Soldier to ask for assistance.

“We go out, and find people when they are struggling with whatever it may be and see how we can assist them,” he said.

The VA is also currently helping former Soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. Concerned with the well-being of the 76th IBCT Soldiers and their Families, they will continue to provide their services and assistance veterans for years to come.

“They’re (Veteran Affairs) the ones that are going to be there for us when we come home and get out of these suits,” Geczy said.



## Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

### Find out the latest in welcome home ceremonies

Welcome Home Ceremony information on redeploying units is available online at the Fort Stewart Homepage at [www.stewart.army.mil/flighttrack](http://www.stewart.army.mil/flighttrack). Dates and times are updated regularly. This will not publish a by-name list or returnees. Please contact your unit Family Readiness Group or unit rear detachment command to determine if your Soldier is redeploying with his unit. In addition to the ceremony time and location, there are instructions for the inclement weather location. The website also shares the four telephone numbers family members and guests can check in order to stay up to date on ceremony times and locations. There is one number for out of state phone calls (1-877-305-2293) and three local numbers 767-0227, 767-8905, and 767-0235. The Web site and phone messages will be updated by the Installation Operations Center as new flight data is provided to them from the Installation Transportation Office. Be advised that there is a potential for time changes and delays as the aircraft arrives closer to the projected time.

### Tax Center hours announced

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge. Your tax return is filed electronically and if a refund is due, you will receive it usually within seven to 10 business days. Eligible individuals include active duty Soldiers, their dependents, and retirees. The center is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., now through April 15. The Marne Tax Center at Hunter is in building 1211 at the Legal Center. Stewart's is at building 621, next to 2nd Brigade Headquarters, across from Cottrell field. For more information, call 315-3675 or 767-7490.

### Retirement party announced

Paul M. Andreshak, deputy commander for Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield is retiring. A retirement party is being held on his behalf. Community members are invited to join us as we celebrate the conclusion of 37 years of his dedicated service 5 p.m., April 4 at Rocky's on Fort Stewart. Come enjoy yourself while rocking to the music of the 60's. The menu will include buffalo wings with blue cheese/ranch dip; barbeque meatballs; Savannah crab dip and flat breads. There will also be a carving station featuring top round and ham. A cash bar is available. The cost is \$10 per person. Tickets go on sale March 3. For more information, call Gail Ammons at 767-9624. Dress is casual, so come as you are.

### Employment for youth offered

The Civilian Personnel Activity Center announces employment opportunities for youth, ages 16 and up for non-appropriated fund positions, provided by the Human Resources Office. The office recruits year-round for the following permanent flexible positions as custodial workers; food service workers; laborers; waiters/waitresses (trainee); recreation aids; and lifeguards. The lifeguard positions are for the summer and require certifications. Return applications to the Human Resources Office, building 253, room 2013A, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m Monday through Friday. Applications will be referred to activity managers and supervisors. If hired, must be able to obtain a work permit.

## Stewart

### Official Mail and Distribution hours provided

The Fort Stewart Offical Mail and Distribution Center is located in building 418-b, has customer service counter hours of 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. If you have a mailbox or need to drop off your official mail and distribution, do so anytime between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the right side door, Monday through Friday. Outgoing mail dropped off after 3 p.m. will not be processed until the following work day. At Hunter, the Official Mail and Distributions sub-center is in building 1212. The operating hours are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### Scholarship applications available

The Fort Stewart Military Family Membership Scholarship Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization under the auspices of The Officers' Spouses' Club that awards merit-based scholarships for deserving eligible Family members of all active, retired or deceased military of the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities. Applications for these scholarships are available at local high schools, ACS and the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. This isn't just for high school seniors. Family members looking to continue their education are encouraged to apply.

### PWOC holds spring retreat

Protestant Women of the Chapel are having a spring retreat,

"The Family Game Plan." All women are welcome to attend-even if you've never been to PWOC. Learn biblical strategies for developing your Family game plan. The event is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 15 at Club Stewart. The cost is \$15. Participants must register by March 5. There will be a continental breakfast and lunch provided. Child care will be provided for children six weeks to 12 years for those registered with CYS.

For more information, call Tammy at 448-2296

### Easter Egg Hunt at Hunter

Come out and participate in the Hunter Army Airfield Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt will be held at the Youth Center and CDC fields at 10 a.m. and is open to ages 1-10. Following the hunt, there will be children's activities and an Easter bunny photo station until 2 p.m. For more information, call 315-5708.

### ID card facilities close

The Fort Stewart ID card facility located in the Audie Murphy Soldier Service Center, building 253, will be closed for RAPIDS upgrade, Feb. 28 - 29. All emergency requests for dependent ID cards and Common Access Cards are encouraged to report to the Hunter Army Airfield ID card section, building 1209.

### Groundbreaking Ceremony slated

Fort Stewart Residential Communities Initiative and GMH Military Housing Unaccompanied Personnel Housing will host a ground breaking ceremony 2 p.m., March 5 at the corner of Hero and New Guinea Roads.

The event will mark the official start of construction for the Fort Stewart UPH project. The project will consist of 37 two-story walk-up, garden style town homes situated on a 50-acre wooded parcel of land. There will be a total of 334 bedrooms in this project consisting of 298 one bedroom apartments and 36 two bedroom apartments. The structure will house E-6 to officer bachelors.

## Hunter

### Family Life Counselors host workshop

Family Life Counselors will present a parent-child communication session for parents 5 p.m., today at the Youth Center in building 1289 on Hunter Army Airfield. Make your reservation by calling 315-5708 or 315-2089. The session will be Parent/Child Communication: guiding children, discipline, and emotional management for parents with children of all ages.

### Hunter Youth Ministry offers free movie

Hunter Youth Ministry is sponsoring a free Saturday afternoon movie, Evan Almighty. All military Families are invited. The ministry will provide free popcorn, drinks and lessons. The event is scheduled at 1 p.m., March 1, in the old theatre behind the post credit union.

### PWOC classes, meetings slated

Classes are available for children, ages three and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Religious Education building. Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for additional information. Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Wednesday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Valarie Moore at 920- 8519 for information.

### Hunter Community Center moves

The Hunter Army Airfield Community Center, building 1286, will be closed today and is moving to building 1279.

The relocation is happening because building 1286 will be renovated. Army Community Services, the leisure travel office, the pass and permit office, Family child care, and the school liaison office will move to the new location.

The offices will reopen Friday. Current phone numbers for the offices will be transferred to the new location. For Army Emergency Relief, call 315-6816 or 767-5058. The Hunter Child and Youth Services registration office will also move to building 1279 today.

### Army Emergency Relief Fund announced

Military and civilian personnel are invited to the Army Emergency Relief Fund kick-off, scheduled 9 a.m., March 6 at ACS building 1279 (the old Ranger headquarters building). The campaign will officially run from March 1 to May 15. If you want to contribute or need additional information about the campaign, contact Brenda Hill at 315-2691.

### New Rio Gate hours scheduled

Rio Gate is now open 24 hours, seven days a week for decaled vehicles only. Daily passes and vehicle registration services are offered at Wilson and Montgomery St. gates. For additional information, call the Hunter police station at 315-6133.

### Learn recipes for successful deployment

The 4th BCT Family Readiness Group and Army Community Services will co-host the Vanguard Recipes for a Successful Deployment seminar, March 8 at the Main Post Chapel.

The seminars, which start at 10 a.m., are on organization, quick healthy meals, MCEC, ACS, and a presentation and book signing by Shellie Vandevoorde.

There will be lots of good information to help our spouses succeed and become more independent during this deployment. The seminars are open to anyone who would like to attend, but space is limited and they must reserve their spot. Child care is available. For more information or reservations, call 767-1749.

### Be a Soldier for a day

4th BCT FRG hosts a Vanguard Combat Spouse Badge competition April 19 at Vanguard Field. Vanguard spouses past and present are invited to come out and be a Soldier for a day! Events will include Army Physical Fitness Training, litter carry, MOUT, Tug-of-War, Common Task Testing, and EST. Following the competition, there will be a cook-out and an awards ceremony for all participants and their Families (children, cheerleaders, etc.). This competition is open only to Vanguard spouses. For more information, call 767-1749.

### Hunter Tax Center offers Saturday hours

The Tax Center, located in building 1211, will conduct two more Saturday operating hours - Saturday and March 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### HSC Luncheon, spring fundraiser slated

Don't miss lunch with members of the Hunter Spouses' Club at 11 a.m., March 11 at Hunter Club for \$10. Fabulous theme baskets will be auctioned to the highest bidders. Club members will also be collecting pencils and juice boxes for Pulaski Elementary School students who are having CRCT testing. Guests of the month include attendees from 603 Aviation Battalion and 260th Quartermaster Battalion, who will get \$1 off lunch and a complimentary prize drawing ticket.

If you wish to attend, contact Stephanie Pettit, 459-0411, by March 6 or make your on-line reservation at [hunterspousesclub.org](#).

## Don't "Trash" that Old Phone Book – RECYCLE! Telephone Book Recycling Drive

### DPW Waste Management Section

Keep Stewart/Hunter Beautiful and Keep Liberty County Beautiful are partnering to keep old phone books out of the landfills. Stewart-Hunter residents can begin recycling outdated telephone directories by simply tossing them into the blue poly-carts for curbside collection or any blue recycling dumpster on the Installation along with other recyclable items. For those individuals in Liberty County and other neighboring communities who wish to



support the telephone book recycling drive, please visit one of the designated drop-off sites Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., now thru April 22, "Earth Day."

### Drop-Off Sites

- Stewart Convenience Center (open 7 days/week 24hrs.) - 685 McFarland Road
- Hunter Convenience Center (open 7 days/week 24 hrs.) – Georgia Hussars
- Liberty County Courthouse Annex, Hinesville
- City Hall - Hinesville / Midway/ Riceboro/Walhourville / Flemington

Keep Stewart/Hunter Beautiful: 767-8880/5729 • Keep Liberty County Beautiful: 368-4888



## Stewart

### Join Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live.

Event dates are March 3 for Isenhower Terrace; March 7 for Isenhower Village; March 10 for Liberty Woods; March 14 for Southern Oaks and March 17 for Coastal Ridge.

The times are 10:30 to 11 a.m. on each day. The locations are the ball field between Subic and Ramblon for Isenhower Terrace; playground at corner of Hero and Liberty for Isenhower Village; playground behind 161 Amberwood for Liberty Woods; Southern Oaks Community Center for Southern Oaks; and playground on Forest and West 8th St. for Coastal Ridge.

### Come fly a kite

GMH will provide the kites. All you have to do is come ready to have some fun 3 to 4:30 p.m., March 12 in the open space in the Liberty Woods neighborhood. Come into Liberty Woods on Austin Road. After passing the GMH Leasing Office, make

a left onto Liberty Woods Drive. Look for field on the right.

### St Patrick's Day Craft

Little leprechauns are invited to make a holiday craft for St. Patrick's Day 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., March 17 at Southern Oaks Community Center.

### GMH Joins Easter Egg Hunt

CYS is hosting the annual Easter egg hunt and GMH will be there too, 10 a.m., March 22. We will be hiding special prize eggs. Whoever finds our eggs can bring them to our table and will receive a special prize from GMH. Contact CYS if you have any questions about the actual Easter egg hunt. The event will be at the Youth Services football field located behind School Age Services.

### Make signs for Soldiers

Some of our troops are getting ready to come home. Welcome your Soldier home by making a personalized sign to hang up or put in your yard. We will provide the supplies. Just bring your creativity 2 p.m., March 3 at Southern Oaks Community Center. Let's support our troops.

## Hunter

### Signs for Soldiers

Some of our troops are getting ready to come home. Welcome your Soldier home by making a personalized sign to hang up or put in your yard. We will provide the supplies. Just

bring your creativity 2 p.m., March 6 at the GMH Leasing Office. Let's support our troops!

### Join Neighborhood Huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with GMH. March 11 at Wilson Acres; March 13 at New Gannam; March 18 for New Savannah; and March 20 for New Callaway. The time for each event is 10:30 to 11 a.m. The location for the events are the GMH Leasing Office for Wilson Acres and New Gannam and New Savannah / New Callaway center for their huddles. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live!

### Create a St Patrick's Day Craft

Little leprechauns are invited to make a holiday craft for St. Patrick's Day 4 p.m. ,March 13 at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

### Let's go fly a kite

Come fly a kite with GMH 3:30 p.m., March 20 at the Soccer field on North Perimeter Road, across from the old Youth Center. We'll provide the kites. All you have to do is come ready to have some fun!

### Win a special prize

CYS is hosting the annual Easter egg hunt and GMH will be there too 10 a.m., March 22 at the Youth Services building 1289. We will be hiding special prize eggs. Whoever finds our eggs can bring them to our table and will receive a special prize from GMH.



# Education Matters

## Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides spouses of military personnel a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at both the Stewart and Hunter education center sites. The active duty spouse does not have to take classes with Columbia College in order to be considered. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of Columbia's three-credit hour classroom course. The program is an incentive for eligible students to embark on a degree program, while completing the financial aid process. In addition, Columbia College is offering two other scholarships for their students who have completed at least 15 SH with Columbia and are maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. Call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

## Have an educational coffee

Join us 9:30 a.m., March 4, for an Educational Coffee in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R Smith Army Education Center, building 100. GED preparation courses are available in conjunction with Savannah Technical College. No appointment necessary for individual counseling Monday - Friday. Counselors are available for group briefings (Family Readiness Group through unit level). Family members, civilians, veterans and active duty are welcome!

## National Military Spouse Scholarship

The National Military Family Association's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of uniformed servicemembers (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships range in amount from \$500 to \$1,000. Scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board. Complete an NMFA survey, short answer questions, and an essay on the NMFA's Web site: [www.nmfa.org/scholarship](http://www.nmfa.org/scholarship). Application deadline is March 15.

## CTC scholarships available

The Central Texas College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 academic year. Interested CTC students have until March 31 to apply for any of the more than 120 endowed scholarships totaling over \$2.6 million. Scholarship opportunities are based on financial need as well as academic achievement. The online application for both the CTC Foundation and CTC Scholarship Fund for high school seniors is available at <https://ctcd.scholarships.nelnet.net>. This school is listed by Military Advance Education in the 2007 Top Colleges and Universities.

## Apply for Rita Ackerman Scholarship

The Rita Ackerman Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each is given to the spouse of an active, retired or deceased enlisted Soldier and residing in the Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield area. The scholarship is a memorial to Rita Ackerman, a former Enlisted Spouses' Club member. Stewart's Enlisted Spouses' Club selection committee will award the scholarship based on academic merit, volunteer activities, recommendations and an essay. Applicants must be accepted, or expect to be accepted by an institution of higher learning or vocational school. It must be completed and mailed by Saturday. For more information, go online at [fortstewartesc.com/Scholarship.aspx](http://fortstewartesc.com/Scholarship.aspx), or see an Army education counselor for an application.

## Military Family Member Scholarship

The Military Family Member Scholarship Fund is a non-profit organization under the auspice of the Officers' Spouses' Club to provide merit-based scholarships. Applicants should be a spouse or unmarried Family member of an active duty, reserve or national guard, retired or deceased member of the U.S. military forces who will be attending accredited institutions pursuing vocational, associate, baccalaureate or masters degrees. Applications must

be completed and mailed by March 12. A special selection committee will award the scholarships in May. The decision will be based on academic records, transcripts, volunteer activities and an essay. Download the application at [thesteel-magnolia.org/Scholarships.html](http://thesteel-magnolia.org/Scholarships.html), or see an Army education counselor.

## Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

## Educate while you wait

Get your certificate or diploma and pursue your new career during this deployment. Certificates for Web site technician, child care manager, and medical transcription are a few of the eligible programs offered by Savannah Technical College. Classes are available in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center and at the Liberty Campus on Airport Road in Hinesville. For more information, call Savannah Tech in the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 408-2430 or the Liberty Campus at 408-3024.

## Take CLEP and DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90 for non-military examinees.

## Take GED, skills enrichment courses

Graduation Equivalence Diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. You can select from one of a number of dates and times, which are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228. For more information, call 368-7322. To register for the classes, you must be present for both days of the process. Registration is first come, first serve. Active duty military are registered upon request. Call 368-7322 for complete details.

## Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., on the second and fourth Thursday.

## Learning center provides computer resources

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center's learning center has 55 computers with Internet access available. You can use the center to complete your homework, research for your classes, access the Army's basic skills automated program, "Lifetime Library" or just stop in to check your e-mail. The center is open seven days a week. It is closed on federal holidays. The learning center is room 230, building 100. The hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. The Hunter learning center is open 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. Take advantage of a variety of study resources and Internet capability. For more information, call 315-6130.

## \$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 223.

## Troops-, Spouse-to-Teachers briefings slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Future meetings are scheduled for 11 a.m., March 19, April 23 and May 21 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at [www.tttga.net](http://www.tttga.net) and [www.sttga.net](http://www.sttga.net) or call 1-800-745-0709 or 767-8331.

## Next college term dates announced

Spring term enrollment begins in March. On-post and distance learning classes are in progress. Please contact the college directly for course schedules.

*Central Texas College* term runs March 17 to May 10. For more information, call 767-2070 or 315-4090 at Hunter.

*Columbia College* term runs March 24 to May 17. For more information, call 767-5336 at Stewart, or 352-8635 at Hunter.

*Embry Riddle* term runs March 17 to May 18. For more information, call 767-3930 at Stewart or 352-5252 at Hunter.

*Savannah Tech* term runs March 28 to June 11. For more information, call 408-2430.

*Webster University* term runs March 17 to May 15. For more information, call 767-5357 at Stewart or 354-0033 at Hunter.

## CES makes training available

The Civilian Education System provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training (leader development) opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. If you are unfamiliar with CES, this link will take you to Army Management Staff College site for CES, or learn more online at [www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces](http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces).

## Webster offers deployed reduced online tuition

Soldiers enrolled in Webster's graduate classes will receive a reduced rate, while deployed. Contact Marsha Sands at [sands@webster.edu](mailto:sands@webster.edu), or 354-0033, DSN: 315-5906 for additional information. This school is listed by Military Advance Education in the 2007 Top Colleges and Universities.

## Hunter Spouses' Club Scholarship offered

The Hunter Thrift Shop- Hunter Spouses' Club Scholarship Program will award several scholarships in amounts from \$200 to \$1000 to deserving students (dependent child or spouse) to further their education. Enter their Web site, [www.hunterspousesclub.org](http://www.hunterspousesclub.org), select scholarships and download the application for complete details. Applications must be postmarked by March 14.

## MOAA offers scholarship

The Military Officers Association of America is offering the base/post scholarships. This program provides grants of \$1000 each to 25 dependent children of military personnel. There are four other additional other programs offered by MOAA. There is just one online application for all programs. It must be completed and submitted no later than noon March 3; [www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund](http://www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund).

## Free college tutoring through March 18

Savannah Technical College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center is offering free "walk-in" tutoring for college students each Monday and Wednesday. Math support is available in room 186, 12:30 to 3 p.m. and English tutoring is conducted in room 253 from 4 to 6 p.m. You do not have to be enrolled in Savannah Tech. No appointment or pre-registration is necessary. For more information, call 408-2430.

## AMU will visit

A representative from American Military University will be available from 1 to 4 p.m., March 5 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, to meet with current and potential students to discuss programs and classes. The AMU representative will also be at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center that morning between 10 and 11:45 a.m. For information, please contact Professor Buddy Maertens at [fmaertens@apus.edu](mailto:fmaertens@apus.edu) or 803-865-9786.

# Job Site

## Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

## Management jobs available

The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Child and Youth Program Assistant (entry skill, and target levels), \$10.39 to \$13.08 per hour

Child and youth program assistant (entry, skill, and target levels), \$10.39-\$12.73 per hour

Recreation aid - \$5.85 - \$7 per hour

Operations assistant - \$5.85 - \$8 per hour

Cook - \$8.70 per hour

Hotel desk Clerk - \$7 - \$7.50 per hour

Cashier - \$8 per hour

Custodial worker - \$7.72 per hour  
Waiter/waitress (trainee) - \$7.17 - \$8.17 per hour

Food service worker - \$7.17 per hour  
Bartender - \$8.70 per hour

To search for these positions go to [cpol.army.mil](http://cpol.army.mil). click on Employment, click on Search for Jobs, at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement."

This will narrow your search to the Stewart-Hunter NAF vacancies. Instructions on how to apply are on each announcement. For federal employment opportunities, go to [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).

## Additional NAF vacancies are:

Recreation assistant (lifeguard), \$9.75 - \$10.25 per hour (Must possess nationally recognized lifeguard, CPR, and first aid certifications), For Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Closing date: Aug. 29

\*Child and youth program associate home-

work lab, \$17.17-\$19.41 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 5

\*Child and youth program associate Technology Lab Instructor, \$14 - \$16 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 12

\*Recreation assistant (lifeguard), \$11-\$12 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 12

\*Child and youth program assistant, \$10.39-\$12.73 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: March 17

## Did you know?

• You don't have to be a U.S. Citizen to be employed by NAF

• Hiring preference for eligible military spouses can be used multiple times for "flexible" status positions.

You do not lose eligibility until you are placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds).

• There is a hiring preference in NAF for involuntarily separated military members and their eligible Family members.

• Current NAF employees who have

worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army.

• Youth at least 16 years of age can be employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria of Federal and state child labor laws.

• NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties.

Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary. Go to [www.armymwr.biz](http://www.armymwr.biz) and click on Programs for more information.

Eligible employees who move between Department of Defense NAF and APF positions can "port" certain benefits such as retirement, leave, etc.

**Editors Note: See Page 4 for special announcement for youth employment.**



# Fallen heroes remembered at Warrior's Walk

Frontline Staff

Hundred of Soldiers, Family and friends gathered at Warrior's Walk on Fort Stewart, Feb. 21 to honor the memory of five fallen heroes of the Third Infantry Division during a tree dedication ceremony.

Before the ceremony began people walked among the sacred grove, as often people do, reading the names, carved in granite and displayed before the other eastern redbud trees, and looking on in pensive moods, before taking their seats.

Soon after their arrival, Kathleen Mills read a poem she prepared for the occasion:

*"Honor*

*On my honor, we will stand at the place where you rest and remember you.*

*On my honor, we will pick up the torch of freedom and carry it for you.*

*On my honor, you will not be a silent memory.*

*We will speak of you often so the world will know what you've done.*

*On my honor, as you reach the gates of heaven you will hear the voices of a grateful nation rise up, and we will, honor you."*

In the silent wake of the poem, Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander, welcomed those in attendance and spoke of the fallen Soldiers.

"I am humbled to speak of five great people, five fine Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Buchs. "They each answered their nations call to duty, serving to protect what we hold dear."

He shared insight into the Soldiers' lives – their loves, hobbies, and Families, and in making the ultimate sacrifice, those things they left behind. He said they would not be forgotten.

"Young and old, Soldier and civilian alike will walk these paths," Buchs said. "They will pause and read their names and reflect on the sacrifice they made for freedom. I pray that those who knew them most are comforted the most in this hour of grief. "

Sergeant Peter C. Neesley, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, who hailed from Grosse Point Farms, Mich., was a Soldier who

knew the meaning of loyalty and selfless-service. He loved being outdoors and looking at the stars. He enjoyed sailing and soccer and was known for his sense of humor. He loved music and was a skilled musician who could sing and play the guitar. Neesley was a Family man, who learned the importance of Family from his grandfather. He also cared about his Soldiers and worried about them when he was on leave and wanted to be with his unit, fighting to make a positive change in Iraq. He was 28-years-old and had five years of active military service.

Specialist Joshua R. Anderson, Troop B, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, who hailed from Jordan Minn., was a Soldier who lived the values of duty and personal courage. Before joining the Army, he knew how to be a member of a team, something he learned playing football in high school. His team spirit made him a dedicated Family man with his wife Hannah; daughter, Savannah Rave; and son Joshua. After he joined the Army, he found his second Family. He was the platoon medic and felt there was no greater calling than saving a fellow Soldier's life. He was 24-years-old, and had one year and 10 months of active military service.

Sergeant Reno S. Lacerna of 226th Quartermaster Company, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, who hailed from Paranaque City, Philippines, understood the meaning of duty and loyalty. He was an athletic man and kept himself in top physical shape. He loved to run, swim and play basketball. Everyone knew how passionate Reno was about basketball. He also cared about his comrades. He signed up to be a recipient of care packages from people across the United States, which he would give to the Soldiers who received little or no mail from home. He was 44-years-old and had nine years of active military service.

Corporal James D. Gudridge, Company A, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th BCT, who hailed from Carthage, N.Y., was a Soldier who knew the meaning of honor and integrity. Since he was a boy, he wanted to be a Soldier. He knew he would probably deploy,

but it didn't stop him from realizing his dream. That dream may have grown out of the strong military ties he had in upstate New York, where a quarter of the students who go to school in Jefferson County are from military Families. A memorial was held at the high school there to accommodate the large number of residents who wanted to honor him. He was 20-years-old and had two years and four months of active military service.

Private First Class Timothy R. Hanson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, who hailed from Kenosha, Wis., was a Soldier who lived the Army values of personal courage and duty. He was a quiet and reserved high school student at Trail Academy. He completed the school's commutations program but loved history, especially World War II. When he was a Boy Scout, he loved camping and field trips. His love of military history and scouting suited him and led him to join the Army, where he was an outstanding mortar man. His comrades remember him as steady and reliable

under fire, always first to repond with his mortar. His Honor Guard, Spc. Willaim Fullagar, 1/15th Inf., knew Hanson. He observed Hanson's bravery first hand. He recalled when the unit came under fire, amidst the chaos, Hanson would move out and prepare respond "He was fearless," Fullagar said. And displaying Fullagar own strength, he stood by his friend's tree, uncovering the granite monument, and placed the placard cover into the hands of Hanson's grieving mother, Susan.

Visiting the Warrior's Walk with his wife Shelly, Sgt. Corey Coffett, Troop B, 6/8 Cav, visited the living monument of Anderson. He wanted to pay respects and leave a memento for his comrade – a drink Anderson had asked Coffett to get for him while he was on leave. Coffett spoke of Anderson's and other Soldiers' success in Iraq.

"We do constant patrols, and interface with the local nationals there," Coffett said. "We just got finished creating a patrol base. It's getting better - 110 percent better. Before you couldn't drive on the road. Now the economy is starting to come back, and things are beginning to improve."



Pat Young

**Spc. Christian Canan, 1/76 FA retrieves the placard cover from Cpl. James Gudridge's, Co. A, 4/64 Armor, tree, with Spc. Leonard Rosier, 6/8 Cav., in the background at the installation tree dedication ceremony, Feb. 21 at Warrior's Walk.**



# Gang Awareness – Consequences of involvement

**Darrin Jaques**  
Staff Judge Advocate

Involvement in criminal street gangs is incompatible with military service and contrary to Army values. Although Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have not had a significant gang problem, gang awareness is necessary since criminal street gangs try to recruit both Soldiers and Family members. Any gang activity disrupts good order and discipline and threatens installation security and force protection. The purpose of this article is to discuss the adverse legal consequences for Soldiers and Family members involved in a criminal street gang.

There are many potential consequences for a Soldier engaging in gang related activity, including separation, bar to reenlistment, court-martial, and being found "not in the line of duty" if injured in gang activity. So, what happens to Soldiers who engage in gang activity? One legal conse-

quence is that if a Soldier who sustains an injury while participating in gang activity may be found "not in the line of duty due to own misconduct," which could result in the Soldier having to repay the Army for medical treatment and loss of other entitlements.

Additionally, the Soldier's command could take administrative actions such as separation or bar to reenlistment. It could even lead to prosecution under the UCMJ. That could mean jail or prison for the gang-involved Soldier.

Of course, the particular misconduct involved would determine the appropriate disposition, but make no mistake that serious consequences can befall the gang-involved Soldier.

It is important for the military community to be aware of current gang and extrem-

ist organization trends and command policies and regulations governing membership. Criminal street gangs may try to recruit across all branches of the military and ranks. Members of many major criminal street gangs, including various white supremacist groups have been documented at other military installations including the Crips, the Bloods, Skinheads and the Ku Klux Klan.

Military command policy, Army Regulation 600-20, prohibits participation in or association with extremist organizations or groups that advocate racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate create or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion or national origin or which advocate the use of force or violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights.

There are also serious consequences for a Family member who becomes involved with a gang. A Family member living on post who gets involved with a gang could be barred from the installation requiring the Family member to move from housing and other detrimental consequences.

Families can help prevent youths from criminal gang involvement and avoid these severe consequences.



## Spotlight Introducing Sharon Tazwell

### Special to the Frontline

Born in a small rural town called Eastville, Va. where she attended North Hampton High School, Sharon Tazwell moved to Paterson, N.J. after she graduated, and resided there for two years where she worked in the private sector as an administrative resource technician.

Upon returning to Virginia, she married her husband Roosevelt who joined the Army in 1976. Together they shared 21 years of military service. They were stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas; Wiesbaden, Germany; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Wurzburg, Germany and finally Fort Stewart.

She is the proud mother of three sons, LaBron, LeVar and Roosevelt, Jr. and the grandmother of three boys, Razhan, Dazhan and LaBran. She is an active member of the Pleasant Grove AME Church in Hinesville, under the leadership of Reverend John E. Morse, Jr. She serves on the Steward Board, Finance Committee, Pastor and Family Aide Ministry, Women's Ministry, Total Praise Dance Ministry and is a member of Pleasant Grove's Mass Choir.

She enjoys reading, singing in her church choir, and praise dancing. She and Roosevelt will celebrate their 32nd wedding anniversary in April.

She entered into the Federal Government Service in 1986, as a sales clerk in the commissary in Wurzburg, Germany. In 1987 she was employed at the U.S. Army hospital in Wurzburg as a medical file clerk.

She returned to the states assigned to Fort Stewart, where she was employed at the Provost Marshal Office as a file clerk in 1992. Later, she became an office automation clerk in the PMO S-3 section and in 1995 won the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Stewart Secretary of the Year award.

In 2000, she was selected to create and open a civilian S-3 section where one had never before existed and her duties changed significantly. She became the training technician for the entire Emergency Services Directorate. Instead of sitting behind a computer, she was now facilitating classes, acting as a role player for student police officers during their training, testing student police officers in the use of traffic radar,

and providing instructions to various classes. Presently, She has 22 years of federal service. She is actively involved in the on-going mission of training throughout the Directorate. The work involves the research, coordination, and scheduling of numerous classes; creating and maintaining the tracking of police requirements; and civilian mandated training.

Sharon is easy to find because she is the lady with the perpetual smile on her face. As busy as she is every day, she will always find a moment to assist anyone who may need her help.



Sharon Tazwell

**Voice your opinion!**  
Write a letter to the editor! Send to  
**Marne TV and The Frontline, Editor,**  
**112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 or fax to 767-9366.**

### Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of 1st Lt. Nathan R. Raudenbush, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. William R. Kern, HHC, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314 at 767-7085.

# Stewart-Hunter encourages community members to provide feedback

**Pat Young**  
Frontline Staff

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield is fielding additional 'Voice of the Customer' tools as a force multiplier to the Interactive Customer Evaluation system, which includes additional customer comment boxes and state-of-the-art kiosk stations.

The installation, three-time winner of the Army Community of Excellence Award, understands the importance of customer feedback and wants to empower the community to help the installation remain the station to train, deploy, live, and choose to raise their Family.

The 207 customer comment boxes and 20 kiosks will be strategically located throughout Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The new additions will help validate priorities, improve services, and facilitate continued development as a customer-focused and results-driven organization.

The kiosks and comment stations will not replace the ICE portion of the Customer Management System but provides an additional venue for customer feedback. ICE is a Web based system already in place and is available via Internet at [ice.disa.mil](http://ice.disa.mil). A link is also located on the Fort Stewart Web site, [www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil).

"Knowing how and where to focus resources is critical in maintaining that focus on Families, Soldiers, units and agencies," said Paul Andreshak, Stewart-Hunter deputy garrison commander. "Feedback is an important factor in maintaining good customer service."

Andreshak said it was a collaborative effort by Soldiers, civilians and Family members that earned the ACOE award.

Stewart -Hunter uses five key core competencies to determine the allocation of its resources. Input from community members and units help ensure the system is customer driven.

Those key core competencies include ensuring the well being of Soldiers and Family members; providing them a safe and secure environment; providing the best possible training and facilities, to units and Soldiers; while optimizing resources and maintaining the ability to deploy units in a quick and effective manner. This key business driver supports all of the core competencies.

In an effort to know the "pulse" of the installation, a number of forums are held regularly to determine needs and interest. Some of those activities include the Army Family Action Plan, town hall meetings, community leader forums, and the installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation Council, ICE, the Army Suggestion program and now additional comment boxes and Kiosks.

"Suggestions help us look at

different ways to improve and serve our customers," Andreshak said. "Without them, we assume we are doing what is wanted and will continue down the same path assuming we are maximizing our efforts."

In that vein, community members are encouraged to learn more about the installation, participate in community forums, and provide timely feedback. In short, help the community to help them. For more information, call PAI at 767-6300 or 767-0443.

## Bright Ideas Are What We're Made Of!

Make your suggestions today

**Joyce M. Bailey**  
954 William H. Wilson Ave.  
Building 624, Suite 111  
Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield  
[armsuggestions.army.mil](http://armsuggestions.army.mil)  
912-767-6300



# On the road again, mechanics keep ‘em rolling

**Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky**  
*2nd BCT Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq** – When the Humvee arrived on Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Oct. 8, it was on its last wheels. Damaged in an accident during combat operations, the Iraqi army vehicle had sustained severe damage to its front end, making it almost inoperable.

The Humvee was about to take its last ride to the scrap yard when one determined mechanic with the 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, decided that the vehicle could be repaired and returned to the IA.

On Feb. 18, a little more than four months later, Spc. Patrick Allen's goal was reached.

Ordering parts or salvaging them from junked vehicles took the bulk of the time. Once these components, including a new engine, transmission, front end and drive train, were collected, Allen said it took him and three civilian mechanics about one month of ‘wrench’ time to reassemble the vehicle.

“We basically had to build it from the ground up,” he said. “The only thing good was the body.”

With the 26th BSB providing wrecker and recovery missions, it was not a task he could focus on every day. However, when not occupied with other missions, Allen, from Tampa, Fla., said he spent as much as six to seven hours a day on the vehicle.

Though other missions took precedence over work on the IA vehicle, the missions reinforced his motivation to return a fully mission-capable Humvee to the Iraqis. “When you’re out on a mission, you don’t want your vehicles to break down and stop the mission,” Allen said.

Allen, who worked at a mechanic shop for four years before joining the Army, wanted to extend that courtesy to his IA partners, some of whom he met when the vehicle was first brought to the motor pool.

Capt. Tim Page, Company B, 26th BSB commander, said he hopes the Iraqi Soldiers are motivated by Allen's work. “The vehicle is more symbolic (than anything),” said Page, from Des Moines, Iowa. “Our gesture shows we care.”

Although Allen did most of the work, IA mechanics from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army, helped with the initial repairs.

Getting the IA to a higher level of proficiency is an important step toward handing security of Iraq over to the Iraqi Security Forces, Page said.

Building up IA logistics is one of the top ten goals of the new Multi-National Corps - Iraq commander, Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin. To that end, the 26th BSB is working on a program in which IA mechanics are brought on base for hands-on learning along with his mechanics, Page said.

“Something like a two-week course could work,” Page said.

The future of such an academy is still up in the air, but one certainty is that if instructors are needed, Allen is a definite candidate. “He's definitely a hyper-motivated guy,” Page said of Allen, adding his accomplishment rebuilding the vehicle did

not surprise him.

In his current tour, Allen has already won the battalion's Soldier of the Month for January and was chosen as “Challenger Soldier of the Week” for Feb. 17 to 23. For his work on the vehicle, he received a battalion coin and certificate of achievement.

He may have also worked himself into a new job, a position Allen said he wouldn't be afraid of. “No challenge too great,” he said, echoing the battalion motto. “If they want me to (fix) another one, it's too easy.”



Kevin Stabinsky

**Spc. Patrick Allen, 26th BSB, 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div., puts the finishing touches on an Iraqi army Humvee damaged during combat operations. Allen completed the repairs by replacing a belt in the engine, Feb. 18.**

## The Outlaws “Train to save” medics on the move

**Maj. Kevin Horde**  
*Battalion Surgeon*

Friday afternoons are times for the Rogue medics to congregate at the Darren P. Hubbell Battalion Aid Station for medical training that keeps life-saving skills sharp and develops the abilities of our medics to recognize and treat a wide array of ailments. Medics use an approach to training that develops their presentation skills as well as medical knowledge. Soldiers scheduled to present a class to their peers are given about a week to hone their knowledge and practice their presentations in a "PowerPoint" format. This type of training develops the skills they will need as future

leaders and simultaneously reinforces their tactical medical confidence. This medical training not only provides necessary reiteration of medical knowledge to create "muscle memory," but also satisfies the requirement of continuing education in order for all of the medics to recertify their National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Certification, and ultimately adding to the knowledge base of the Medics that train the Combat Lifesavers in the battalion.

Recent topics that have been trained include Airway Management, I.V. Insertion, Hemorrhage Control, Patient Assessment, Communications, and Basic Pharmacology, just to name a few. In addition to these ses-

sions, both the "Rogue PA" and "Rogue Doc" make regular contributions to the training. Recent news reports have touted the increased incidence of Methicillin Resistant Staph. Aureus infections in the US. The Rogue Doc presented an informative lecture to the medics to help them properly recognize and treat suspected cases before they have the ability to progress. With the 2007-2008 flu season in full swing, the medics trained on what signs and symptoms to watch for in their Soldiers as well as the way to properly administer both the "Ru-mist" and the influenza vaccine as the annual rite of passage to the new year.

Future topics scheduled include preven-

tion and treatment of kidney stones, the common cold, heat and cold injuries, and finally with the culmination of all the training into a one-stop patient treatment practical exercise.

Rogue medic training was recently tested in a battalion-wide mass casualty exercise attended by the battalion commander and command sergeant major who had the opportunity to witness junior leaders in action training other medics. It is safe to say that they undoubtedly left with a renewed confidence that our medics are ready to meet the continuing challenge of providing care to each Desert Rogue Soldier to support our mission of ensuring freedom to a more secure Iraq.

## Company D, 1/15 Inf Regt patrols Saharoon



Spc. Ben Hutto

**Staff Sgt. Sean Kane, a section sergeant in 2nd platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, currently attached to 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, hands a small child candy during a patrol in Saharoon, a small village east of Baghdad, Feb. 12.**

## Former 3rd HBCT commander visits FOB Hammer, Iraq

**Sgt. Natalie Rostek**  
*3rd HBCT Public Affairs*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq** – Brig. Gen. Dan Allyn, Chief of Staff of the XVIII Airborne Corps, visited leaders of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Feb. 17 at Forward Operating Base Hammer.

Allyn, former commander of the 3rd HBCT, visited with Col. Wayne W. Grigsby, from Prince George's County, Md., current 3rd HBCT commander, battalion commanders and command sergeants major for a briefing on the brigade's current operations in the Mada'in Qada.

Before the briefing, Grigsby gave Allyn a quick tour of the brigade headquarters. During the tour, Allyn met Soldiers and officers working in the tactical operations center, many of whom he worked with during his time with the brigade.

The briefing began with an overview of the progression FOB Hammer has undergone from March 2007 until now. Allyn, having previously commanded the brigade during the invasion of Iraq in 2003, understood FOB improvement efforts were primarily the work of the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion.

“It looks like the Eagles (203rd BSB) have been getting after it,” he said.

Allyn, who was recently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, ensured FOB Hammer was his first stop, to meet with his former brigade's leaders.

“This has been a great treat for me,” he said. “I hope I can turn something around and make this worth your time.”

After the briefing, Lt. Col. Mark Sullivan, from Huntsville, Ala., commander of 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, and his Soldiers took Allyn on a patrol through Sabbah Nissan. Sullivan, who has been with the brigade for nine years, previously worked under Allyn's command.

“The patrol highlighted the success of the Sons of Iraq and the creation of the local council that represent the 12 villages along Butler Range Road,” Sullivan said. “This significant gain in security allows us to move forward in governance and economics.”

Sullivan believes the key to Coalition Force success is to provide locals with alternatives to criminal activity.

“Because of the improvements in security and the council, we have reached a point where we have Iraqi leaders educating the people on governance and economics,” he said.

“This is a huge step and will ultimately affect the prospects of the nahia in the future.